

February 2017

# Land Grant Application- Hanscom, Reuben (Berwick)

Reuben Hanscom

Alice Hanscom

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Paid 25

1. Heart for Esquire

Augusta Maine

Lebanon Oct 26, 1875

William Hoat Jr Esq

Sir, Inclosed I send

you the Application of Eliza Hanson  
widow of Deuben Hanson late of North  
Brewich a Revolutionary soldier deceased; for lands  
agreeable to the resolve of the Legislature of  
1875 passed in favor of the Officers and  
soldiers of the Revolution - as the proof of said  
Deuben Hanson's service, the Pension Agent  
at Washington, James L. Edwards Esq, as he  
informs me, has forwarded you as the Land Agent  
long since. If you have not received such  
proof, please inform me by letter  
forthwith - Please direct all communi-  
cations concerning the application within to  
the subscriber at Lebanon

J. J. Kimball

Application of 570  
Alice Hanscom  
widow of Reuben Hanscom.

Rejected  
Filed Oct 29, 1835.

Rejected. Did not  
serve three years in  
Mass<sup>tts</sup> Line

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I Eliza Hanson widow of Reuben Hanson late of North Berwick in the County of York depose & say - that according to my best knowledge and belief said Reuben Hanson my late husband, who died March 22<sup>d</sup> A.D. 1871 at North Berwick, was a soldier of the Revolution for the space of three years & nine months - he enlisted in Kittery in said York County where he was born & brought up - He was in the battle of Bankersville. He also served on board the United States ship Ranger with the noted Paul Jones. I have frequently heard him tell over his sufferings while in the service & he was by the side of Colonel Hallingford of Somerset Co. N. H. when that Officer fell by a ball from the enemy, and I think said Hallingford was his Colonel a part of the time - My said husband drew a pension from the United States under the Act of Congress of 1810 for one year only when he was cut off in want of property - I have wrote the Pension Department at Washington for a copy of the proof of his service lodged there and the Agent says he has forwarded them to you at Augusta Me. I cannot tell in what Regiment he served, nor the name of the Colo - He never received any land or money from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts nor did any person claiming under him. And I said Eliza is his late wife & now widow. I said Reuben, was justly entitled to the benefit of the resolve of the Legislature passed March 17, 1875 in favor of the Officers, soldiers & widows of Officers & soldiers of the Revolutionary War. I was married to said Reuben at said North Berwick by Rev. Nathaniel Miniam (who was a settled clergyman in said Berwick) fifty two years this present month - I am now in my sixty eighth year

Eliza Hanson  
mark

J. S. Hamblet  
York Co. October the 17, 1895 - when personally appeared the above named Eliza Hanson and made oath that the above affidavit by her subscribed is true according to her best knowledge & belief before me  
J. S. Hamblet Justice of Peace

I William Allen Hayes Judge of Probate within & for the County of York in the State of Maine, hereby certify that satisfactory evidence under oath has been adduced before me to prove that Eliza Hanson of North Berwick in the said County of York was the lawful wife, and is now the widow of Reuben Hanson of said North Berwick, a Revolutionary Soldier deceased

Given under my hand this twentieth day of October in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred & ninety five

Wm. A. Hayes Judge of Probate

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Reuben Hancock

Private & Marine

1<sup>st</sup> Enlistment

Col. Scammans Regt

Massachusetts Troops

1775 -

8 months

2<sup>d</sup> Enlistment

Col. Phinney's Regiment

Massachusetts Troops

1<sup>st</sup> Jan'y 1776 - 12 months

2<sup>d</sup> Enlistment

on board the Ship Ranger

Capt John Paul Jones.

Sept 1777 - Oct 1778

1437 words

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts. York Co. On this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April A.D. 1818,  
before me the Subscriber, Chief Justice of the Circuit Court of Common  
Pleas for the first Eastern Circuit in said Commonwealth, personally  
appeared Reuben Hanscom, aged 64 years, resident in Berwick in  
said County of York, who being by me first duly sworn according  
to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in  
order to obtain the provision made by the late Act of Congress  
entitled, "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the  
Land and naval service of the United States in the Rev-  
olutionary War." That he the said Reuben Hanscom in the spring  
of the year 1775 enlisted as a private soldier in the Continental Army  
for the term of Eight months under Capt Fernald in the Regt.  
Commanded by Col. James Hammon of the Massachusetts Line, that  
he continued to do his duty in 1<sup>st</sup> Company & Regt. until just  
before the expiration of the above named term of Eight months, when  
he again enlisted for the further term of twelve months in the same  
Company but in Col. Minney's Regt. in the Massachusetts Line &  
continued to do his duty in 1<sup>st</sup> Company & Regt. until the expiration  
of the above named term of One year, when he was honestly dis-  
charged at Fort George, but has lost his discharge - that in the  
month of September 1777 he entered on board the Continental Ship  
of War the Ranger Commanded by Capt. John Paul Jones for  
the term of twelve months, & in the month of October or November  
he left Portsmouth, New Hampshire in the said Ship on a Cruise  
to France, during which term, the said Ship fell in with & Cap-  
tured his Britannic Majesty's Ship the Drake after a severe en-  
counter; and as a Merchantman, he was put on board the last named  
Prize which went into Beest where she lay about three months  
as a prize ship - after which he again went on board the Ran-  
ger & returned to the United States where she arrived in the month  
of October 1778 at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where he was discharged  
from the said Ship, having served more than twelve months - but his  
discharge he has lost. And in proof of the foregoing declaration  
made by the above mentioned Reuben Hanscom, Samuel Odgers  
and Reuben Ricker, two credible witnesses personally appeared and  
after being by me duly sworn according to law, they upon their oaths



do say that the said Reuben Hancock did serve in the Revolutionary war on board the United States Ship Ranger for the full term of twelve months, as he has testified that they both served on board the same vessel with him the whole of said time and know that he did his duty faithfully, that he was honorably discharged having fulfilled his engagement. That he is reduced in his circumstances and needs the assistance of his country for support, and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said service - sworn to and declared before me the day and year above said - Benj. Greener.

I Benjamin Greener Chief Justice of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas for the First Eastern Circuit, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do certify that it appears to my satisfaction that the said Reuben Hancock did serve in the revolutionary war against the Common enemy, as he has stated in his declaration aforesaid, and that he is reduced in his circumstances, and needs the assistance of his country for his support - And I do now transmit the foregoing and testimony taken and had before me to the Secretary for the Department of War, pursuant to the directions of the before mentioned act of Congress - In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court this fifteenth day of April Anno Domini 1818 -

(Signed) Benj. Greener.

I Reuben Pecker of Berwick, in the County of York and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, (born of lawful age to testify and give evidence), do on oath declare that I am well acquainted with Reuben Hancock of Berwick aforesaid and know that the said Hancock served on board the Continental ship Ranger for fifteen months or more. I entered on board said ship in August 1777 and served until we returned from a voyage to France in November 1778 when the crew was discharged at Portsmouth N. Hampshire - Very soon after I entered on board said ship I became acquainted with said Hancock who served with me until we were discharged - I know that he done his duty faithfully, and was honorably discharged when the term of his enlistment expired - Reuben Pecker

I Thomas Beck of Portsmouth in the State of New Hampshire do on oath declare that I belonged to the United States Sloop of War Ranger in her Cruise from said Portsmouth to France and into the Irish Sea & back to France & Portsmouth, having entered as quarter Master & being afterwards made Coxswain of the Ranger. That Reuben Hancock was of Berwick Maine, whom I well know, entered at a Marine on board the Ranger before she sailed from Portsmouth as said Cruise, & continued to belong to her during the whole of it & until discharged after our return which was in October 1778, we having sailed from Portsmouth as aforesaid the preceding November. That after we had captured the Drake in said Irish Sea, we took a Brig called the Patience, and the said Hancock & Mark Staples & I with others were put on board said Prize Brig & went in her to France, and after the arrival of the Ranger in France the said Hancock was still kept on board said Brig until about the time of the Rangers sailing from France on her return to Portsmouth, about which time he was again taken on board the Ranger & returned in her. And I well know that the said Reuben Hancock belonged to the Brig of which I was Coxswain for a considerable time after our first arrival in France - (Signed) Thomas Beck

State of New Hampshire - Patm<sup>s</sup> to wit - On this 29<sup>th</sup> day of June A.D. 1819 before me Sam<sup>l</sup> Humphreys, Notary Public, duly commissioned & sworn, came Capt. Thomas Beck of s<sup>t</sup> Portsmouth a Citizen to me well known, worthy of good Credit, & made oath to the truth of the above deposition, by him subscribed in my presence. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & affixed my Notarial Seal the day & year last aforesaid -

(Signed) Sam<sup>l</sup> Humphreys, Noty Pub<sup>l</sup>  
Hm<sup>l</sup> Sir, Portsmouth June 28<sup>th</sup> 1819.

Reuben Hancock of Berwick M<sup>e</sup> called on me this morning to know the reason why his name was not returned with the Rangers Crew, which led me to examine my journals wherein I find that Reuben Hancock and Thomas Staples were



on duty on board our Ship Big Patience which was then employed as a firing Ship in the Port of Bristol and we did not take them on board the Ranger until we were ready for sea. These two men belonged to the Ranger the first Cruise and are entitled to their pensions agreeably to the provision made by the late act of Congress. This I submit to your consideration and remains with great respect, your humble servant.

Elijah Hall Late Lieut of the Ranger ship of war

I hereby certify that the foregoing pages numbered from one to four inclusive, are truly copied from the originals on file in the Pension Office, War Department; and I do further certify that it appears from a Muster Roll of Captain John Fernald's Company in Colonel Edmund Whinnery's Regiment of Massachusetts Troops, deposited in said Office, that Newben Hanson enlisted on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1776. The period for which he engaged to serve is not stated.

Benj<sup>d</sup> L Beall

Sept 28<sup>th</sup> 1835

I certify that Benjamin L Beall, who is employed by the Land Agent of the State of Maine, under a Resolution of the Legislature of that State, approved by the Governor on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1835, to obtain from the Pension Office certain documents and records, has made as full an examination in the case of Newben Hanson as the Books and Papers of said Office will allow, according to the best of my judgment and belief. Dated at the Pension Office, War Department the twenty eighth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and thirty five.

J L Edward

Commissioner of Pensions